

**REMARKS**

In the outstanding Office Action identified above, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Larson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,383,340); and rejected claims 4, 7, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Larson et al. in view of Becker (U.S. Patent No. 6,199,915), Nielson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,990,541), and Florence et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,776,421), respectively. Claims 9-22 stand allowed. Based on the following reasoning, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and § 103(a).<sup>1</sup>

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Pape for allowing Applicants' representatives to discuss the pending claims on June 26, 2006. The Examiner clarified his rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103. The Examiner suggested claim changes that would be sufficient to overcome the prior art of record. In accordance with the Examiner's suggestions, Applicants have amended claim 1 to clarify and more appropriately define the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections of claims 1, 2, and 4-8 and to allow the claims. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added by these amendments.

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 1, 2, and 4-8 in condition for allowance.

Applicants submit that the proposed amendments of claim 1 do not raise new issues or

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<sup>1</sup> As Applicants' remarks with respect to the Examiner's rejections are sufficient to overcome these rejections, Applicants' silence as to certain assertions or requirements applicable to such rejections (e.g., whether a reference constitutes prior art, motivation to combine references, etc.) is not a concession by Applicants that such assertions are accurate or such requirements have been met, and Applicants reserve the right to analyze and dispute such in the future.

necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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